



## SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **“The Pageantry of Sanctimony” - Matthew 23:1-7**

Date: **January 9, 2021**

### Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the teaching and bible passage this week?
2. Compare and contrast the Sermon on the Mount (especially the Beatitudes) with Jesus’ sermon in Matthew 23.
3. According to verses 2-3, did Jesus take issue with what the scribes and Pharisees taught about the law of God? What then did Jesus take issue with? Explain.
4. What are some examples of dead formalism that you see in the world and in the church today? What are some temptations we must avoid in this area?
5. What are some ways we can inadvertently create demands that crush those around us? How can we cultivate an environment of grace in our homes and families while still upholding God’s law?
6. Explain verse 5. What are some ways we might be tempted to draw attention to ourselves as believers and as a church? How can we fight against this?
7. Above all, the Pharisees wanted to be liked by men. They wanted to be popular with the world. This drove so much of their behaviour. Why do you think this sin is still so prevalent in the world and in the church today?
8. Pastor Jacob said that we must seek to “die to the smile of men and live for the smile of God.” How can we do this? How can we cultivate in our lives a much greater desire for God’s approval than anyone else’s?